**Room 2 Newsletter Term 1, 2014**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is good to be back after a year of study leave at the University of Waikato (although I really did enjoy the study). In the meantime I have gained two new grandsons (one just arrived on Saturday), so I now have 6 grandsons and one granddaughter, with one more on the way in May!

My husband and I had a great time camping in the Coromandel over the holidays- we have the freedom of doing so without any kids☺. I do hope you were able to enjoy some special moments with your children, as well as getting time to relax and recuperate for the new year.

j0232054The following is (hopefully) some helpful information as we begin our school year.

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**Independence:**

The first year of school is a huge challenge for all children. One of those challenges is to develop independence. We encourage children to be responsible for their own belongings, i.e. carry in and hang up their own bags, bring their book bags into the classroom each morning and put them into their chairbags, dress themselves and blow their noses.

**Sunblock:**

Please consider putting sunblock on your child before they come to school. We do have sunblock at school to use if we feel it is necessary; however, if you do not wish this to happen for your child, please let me know.

**Homework:**

Your child will usually bring home two reading books to share with you, as well as their poem book. Please share their reading and sign their homework notebook. The readers and poem book must be returned every day; otherwise your child will not be issued with new ones. There may be Religious Education homework to complete and this book must also be returned to school the next day. Bookbags are very important for protecting reading books and homework.

**Swimming:**

During the next five or six weeks we will have daily swimming lessons in the school pool. Please ensure your child has his/her togs and towel **every day** in a swimming or plastic bag even if the weather does not look good. Girls are to wear togs, not bikinis. All swimming gear must be **named,** including the bag. Please do not send goggles with your child as it is vitally important that your child develops confidence in the water without their use.

**Clothing:**

**All clothing needs to be** **named**, including P.E. gear, underwear and shoes. This term all children are expected to wear **hats**. Those without hats will be allowed to play only in shaded areas of the Junior courtyard during morning tea and lunch breaks.

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**New Entrant Wikispace:**

This can be found at <http://nestpats.wikispaces.com>

**Study Topics:**

Inquiry Learning: **Our Learning Journey** (Health)

RE: Prayer, Jesus, Lent, Holy Spirit, Easter

Maths: Number, Graphs, Volume, Shapes

Art: Painting

PE: Swimming, Ball Skills

You are very welcome to come in before or after school with any concerns or questions, keeping in mind that some days I have commitments e.g. staff meetings.

Thank you so much for your support.

God Bless

Judy Graham

**Money:**

Please put any money your child brings to school in an envelope (a used one is fine) with their name, amount and purpose written on the outside. Payments are usually made to the office. When buying lunch, the children must take their money to the library where adults collate the orders. I will send someone with them if they don’t know where to go

**Pre-schoolers:**

While we love to get to know the families of children in our class, please be considerate of class equipment and causing distraction when bringing pre-schoolers into the room.

**Toys**

Toys, other than balls and tennis racquets (named), are not to be brought to school.

Please, also, do not send pencil cases, pencils, rulers etc with your child. Those purchased when starting school are usually all they need. I will let you know if anything new is required.

**Letter of the Week:**

Each week we focus on a new alphabet letter. Children are encouraged to bring something starting with that letter for our display table. If your child is unsure of that letter and the sound it makes, here’s an opportunity to do some fun activities about it at home (Refer to your   
child’s alphabet card for ideas).

**Library:**

Our library day is Wednesday. Your child needs a large named book bag to take their library book home e.g. draw string bag, eco shopping bag. Large book bags can be purchased through the school for $3.00.

**Email Contact**

If you wish to be contacted by email for any reason, please send you preferred email address to [judy@stpatta.co.nz](mailto:judy@stpatta.co.nz) .